

Serial Number: 09/607,568

Docket Number: 10004010-1

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system in a digital sending device for authenticating a user, comprising:
 - a processor coupled to a local interface;
 - a memory coupled to the local interface; and
 - send logic stored on the memory and executable by the processor, the send logic comprising:
 - logic to input a password associated with the a user;
 - logic to authenticate the password and to obtain a FROM field identifier associated with the user, wherein the FROM field identifier is obtained from a directory server through authentication logic executed on a server on a network, the digital sending device being coupled to the network;
 - and
 - logic to lock the FROM field identifier into a FROM field associated with a data transmission, wherein the user is prevented from entering or altering the FROM field identifier at the digital sending device.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the send logic further comprises logic to input a username.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the FROM field identifier further comprises a name of the user.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the FROM field identifier further comprises an electronic mail address associated with the user.

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5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A system in a digital sending device for authenticating a user, comprising:
 - means for inputting a password associated with the a user;
 - means for authenticating the password and for obtaining a FROM field identifier associated with the user, wherein the FROM field identifier is obtained from a directory server through authentication logic executed on a server on a network, the digital sending device being coupled to the network; and
 - means for locking the FROM field identifier into a FROM field associated with a data transmission, thereby preventing the user from entering or altering the FROM field identifier at the digital sending device.
7. (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising means for inputting a username.
8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the FROM field identifier further comprises a name of the user.
9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the FROM field identifier further comprises an electronic mail address associated with the user.
10. (Canceled)

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11. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating a user, comprising the steps of:

inputting a password associated with a user into a device coupled to a network;

authenticating the password and obtaining a FROM field identifier associated with the user from a directory server coupled to the network; and

locking the FROM field identifier into a FROM field associated with a data transmission to be transmitted from the device and preventing a user from entering or altering the FROM field identifier at the device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of inputting a username.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A system for authenticating a user, comprising:
a processor coupled to a local interface;
a memory coupled to the local interface; and
authentication logic stored on the memory and executable by the processor, the authentication logic comprising:

logic to verify a password associated with a user comprising logic to communicate with a domain controller to verify the password and to obtain a secure identification tag associated with the user from the domain controller; and

logic to obtain a FROM field identifier associated with the user comprising logic to request the FROM field identifier from an electronic mail server based upon the secure identification tag, the FROM field identifier being associated with the secure identification tag.

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15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the authentication logic further comprises logic to apply the FROM field identifier to send logic to be associated with a data transmission.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the logic to verify a password associated with a user further comprises logic to decrypt the password.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A system for authenticating a user, comprising:
means for verifying a password associated with a user comprising
means for communicating with a domain controller to verify the password and to obtain a secure identification tag associated with the user from the domain controller;
and

means for obtaining a FROM field identifier associated with the user
comprising means for requesting the FROM field identifier from an electronic mail server based upon the secure identification tag, the FROM field identifier being associated with the secure identification tag.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising means for applying the FROM field identifier to send logic to be associated with a data transmission.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the means for verifying a password associated with a user further comprises logic to decrypt the password.

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22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method for authenticating a user, comprising the steps of:

verifying a password associated with a user by communicating with a domain controller to verify the password and to obtain a secure identification tag associated with the user from the domain controller; and

obtaining a FROM field identifier associated with the user by requesting the FROM field identifier from a directory server based upon the secure identification tag, the FROM field identifier being associated with the secure identification tag.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of applying the FROM field identifier to send logic to be associated with a data transmission.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of verifying a password associated with a user further comprises the step of decrypting the password.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

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29. (New) An authentication method, comprising the steps of:

- inputting a username and a password associated with a user into a device, the username identifying the user on a network;
- sending an authentication request with the username and the password to authentication logic on a server on the network;
- employing the authentication logic to verify that the username and password are valid with a domain controller;
- employing the authentication logic to request a FROM field identifier corresponding to a secure identification tag associated with the user from a directory server if the username and password are valid, the secure identification tag being obtained from the domain controller;
- sending the FROM field identifier from the authentication logic to the device in response to the authentication request if the FROM field identifier is successfully identified based on the secure identification tag; and
- locking the FROM field identifier into a FROM field associated with a first data transmission to be sent from the device to a destination device if the FROM field identifier is received in the device.

30. (New) The authentication method of claim 29, further comprising the step of sending an authentication failure from the authentication logic to the device if the username and the password are determined to be invalid.

31. (New) The authentication method of claim 30, further comprising the step of preventing the sending of the first data transmission from the device upon receipt of the authentication failure in the device.

32. (New) The authentication method of claim 29, further comprising the step of sending an authentication failure from the authentication logic to the device if the FROM field identifier is not successfully identified based on the secure identification tag.

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33. (New) The authentication method of claim 29, further comprising the step of employing the FROM field identifier to send a confirmation to a user device indicating whether the first data transmission was successfully sent to the destination device.

34. (New) The authentication method of claim 29, further comprising the step of storing the username and the password in a memory in the device while the sending of the first data transmission is pending or is currently in progress.

35. (New) The authentication method of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a second username and a second password into the device while the sending of the first data transmission is pending or is currently in progress;

determining if the second username and the second password corresponds with the username and the password; and

locking the FROM field identifier into the FROM field associated with a subsequent data transmission to be transmitted from the device to a subsequent destination device if the second username and second password correspond with the username and the password.

36. (New) The authentication method of claim 29, further comprising the step of opening a parallel channel to send the authentication request to the authentication logic on the server on the network if a prior data transmission is currently being sent to a previous destination device.